

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 561

To improve child safety in motor vehicles.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2005

Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To improve child safety in motor vehicles.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Kids and Cars
5 Act of 2005”.

6 (a) INCORPORATION OF CHILD DUMMIES IN SAFETY
7 TESTS.—

8 (1) REVIEW PROCESS REQUIRED.—Not later
9 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act, the Administrator of the National Highway
11 Traffic Safety Administration shall conduct a review

1 process to increase utilization of child dummies, in-
2 cluding Hybrid-III child dummies, in motor vehicle
3 safety tests, including crash tests, conducted by the
4 Administration.

5 (2) CRITERIA.—In conducting the review proc-
6 ess under subsection (a), the Administrator shall se-
7 lect motor vehicle safety tests in which the inclusion
8 of child dummies will lead to—

9 (A) increased understanding of crash dy-
10 namics with respect to children; and

11 (B) measurably improved child safety.

12 (3) PUBLIC INPUT.—The Secretary of Trans-
13 portation shall solicit and consider input from the
14 public regarding the review process under paragraph
15 (1).

16 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 shall publish a report regarding the implementation
19 of this section. The report shall include information
20 regarding the current status of the Hybrid-III 10
21 year old child test dummy.

22 (b) CHILD SAFETY INFORMATION PROGRAMS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary of Transportation shall supplement ongoing

1 consumer information programs relating to child
 2 safety with information regarding hazards to chil-
 3 dren in nontraffic, noncrash accident situations.

4 (2) ACTIVITIES TO SUPPLEMENT INFORMA-
 5 TION.—In supplementing such programs, the Sec-
 6 retary shall—

7 (A) utilize information collected in the
 8 database maintained under subsection (e) re-
 9 garding nontraffic, noncrash injuries, as well as
 10 other relevant data from private organizations,
 11 to establish priorities for the program;

12 (B) address ways in which parents can
 13 mitigate dangers to small children arising from
 14 preventable causes, including backover inci-
 15 dents, hyperthermia in closed vehicles, and acci-
 16 dental activation of power windows;

17 (C) partner with national child safety re-
 18 search organizations and other interested orga-
 19 nizations with respect to the delivery of pro-
 20 gram information; and

21 (D) make information related to child safe-
 22 ty available to the public via the Internet and
 23 other means.

24 (c) REPORT ON VEHICLE VISIBILITY.—Not later
 25 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to
 2 Congress on the extent to which driver visibility of the
 3 area immediately surrounding light passenger vehicles and
 4 obstructions to such visibility affect pedestrian safety, in-
 5 cluding the safety of infants and small children, in non-
 6 traffic, noncrash situations.

7 (d) REPORT ON ENHANCED VEHICLE SAFETY TECH-
 8 NOLOGIES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of
 9 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation
 10 shall submit to Congress a report that describes, evalu-
 11 ates, and determines the relative effectiveness of—

12 (1) currently available and emerging tech-
 13 nologies, including auto-reverse functions, that are
 14 designed to prevent and reduce the number of inju-
 15 ries and deaths to children left unattended inside
 16 parked motor vehicles, including injuries and deaths
 17 that result from hyperthermia or are related to
 18 power windows or power sunroofs; and

19 (2) currently available and emerging tech-
 20 nologies that are designed to prevent deaths and in-
 21 juries to small children resulting from vehicle blind
 22 spots and backover incidents.

23 (e) DATABASE ON INJURIES AND DEATHS IN NON-
 24 TRAFFIC, NONCRASH EVENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transpor-
2 tation shall maintain a database of, and regularly
3 collect data regarding, injuries and deaths in non-
4 traffic, noncrash events involving motor vehicles.
5 The database shall include information regarding—

6 (A) the number, types, and proximate
7 causes of injuries and deaths resulting from
8 such events;

9 (B) the characteristics of motor vehicles
10 involved in such events;

11 (C) the characteristics of the motor vehicle
12 operators and victims involved in such events;
13 and

14 (D) the presence or absence in motor vehi-
15 cles involved in such events of advanced tech-
16 nologies designed to prevent such injuries and
17 deaths.

18 (2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pre-
19 scribe regulations regarding how to structure and
20 compile the database. The Secretary shall solicit and
21 consider input from the public regarding data collec-
22 tion procedures and the structure of the database
23 maintained under paragraph (1).

24 (3) DEADLINES.—The Secretary shall—

1 (A) complete the prescription of regula-
2 tions and the consideration of public input
3 under paragraph (2) not later than September
4 1, 2006; and

5 (B) commence the collection of data under
6 paragraph (1) not later than January 1, 2007.

7 (4) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make
8 the database maintained under paragraph (1) avail-
9 able to the public.

○